

Claims

1. Use of *lactobacilli* in the preparation of an enteral nutritional composition for facilitating or improving the absorption of minerals by a mammal.
- 5 2. Use according to claim 1 in which the *lactobacilli* is a *Lactobacillus* bacteria which is capable of adhering to intestinal cells.
- 10 3. Use according to Claim 2 in which the *lactobacilli* is the *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.
4. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition contains 10^7 to 10^{11} cfu of *lactobacilli*.
- 15 5. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition facilitates the absorption of calcium, magnesium, iron and/or zinc.
6. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition contains milk proteins.
- 20 7. Use according to Claim 6 in which the enteral nutritional composition is an infant formula comprising hypo-allergenic milk protein hydrolysates.
- 25 8. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition further comprises prebiotic fibres.
9. Use of *lactobacilli* in the preparation of an enteral nutritional composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of mineral deficiencies.
- 30 10. A method for increasing absorption of minerals from the diet, the method comprising enterally administering to a mammal a nutritional composition which contains *lactobacilli*.

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add.